

NEWS RELEASE

PLEASE NOTE DATE



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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FACT SHEET

SAMOS II

GENERAL INFORMATION

Project SAMOS is a research and development program to determine the capabilities for making observations of space, the atmosphere and the nature of the globe from satellites. The program is under the executive management of the Secretary of the Air Force.

TEST OBJECTIVE

SAMOS II was launched from a USAF launch pad at the Naval Missile Facility, Point Arguello, California, into the Pacific Missile Range to place the vehicle in a near circular polar orbit. The purpose of the initial SAMOS flights is component testing bearing on the engineering feasibility of obtaining an observation capability from an orbiting satellite.

CONFIGURATION

SAMOS employs the AGENA as its second stage. It is boosted out of the atmosphere by a modified Air Force ATLAS, and placed into orbit by the AGENA.

First Stage

Booster.....An Air Force ATLAS modified for the SAMOS vehicle.
Height.....Approximately 77 feet (with adapter section).
Launch Weight....Approximately 262,000 lbs.
Propulsion.....Rocketdyne liquid propellant engine, 356,000 pounds thrust.
Guidance and Control.....The Convair ATLAS booster is equipped with the GE/Burroughs radio command guidance system. The guidance system can detect position and rate, compare this information with the pre-determined trajectory data and command flight correction.

REF

Satellite Vehicle

The entire Lockheed AGENA second stage becomes the orbiting vehicle.

Height.....About 22 feet

Weight.....Approximately 11,000 lbs. at launch.

Orbital weight after fuel exhaustion will be approximately 4,100 lbs.

Propulsion....Following coast period after ATLAS burnout, a Bell liquid fuel rocket engine, developing 15,000 lbs. of thrust, will propel the second stage into orbit.

Instrument Test photographic and related equipment
Package....

TRACKING, TELEMETRY AND COMMAND

a. Primary tracking, telemetry and command during orbit will be performed by:

Vandenberg Tracking Station, Vandenberg AFB, California
Hawaiian Tracking Station, Kaena, Oahu, Hawaii
Kodiak Tracking Station, Kodiak, Alaska

b. Ascent guidance (booster)

GE Mod II, Vandenberg AFB, California

c. Ascent tracking and telemetry

Vandenberg Tracking Station, Vandenberg, California

d. Downrange Telemetry and Tracking Ship

Richfield

e. Ascent Radar and/or Optical Tracking (PMR)

Point Arguello, California

Point Mugu, California

St. Nicholas Island, California

f. USAF Satellite Test Center, Sunnyvale, California

Control Center receiving all orbital data and exercising command control of SAMOS.

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